[The Raja of Bobbili, who gave notice to introduce a Bill further to amend the Madras Impartible Estates Act, 1904 (Bill No. 8 of 1932), was not in his place when called by the hon. the President.]

XXII.—RESOLUTION ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

SERVICE OF COPYISTS AND COPYIST-EXAMINERS IN THE REVENUE COURTS.

Discussion on the following resolution of Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan was resumed:—

> '*This Council recommends to the Government that the service of copyists and copyist-examiners in the Revenue courts of this Presidency be made permanent and pensionable.*'

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member who moved the resolution has spoken on it, and it has been seconded by Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, if I remember right. So the discussion on this resolution will continue."

* The hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid it is not possible for Government to accept this resolution at the present time for these reasons. At present the copyists are paid on the basis of actual work turned out by them. Sometimes, there is a good deal of work to be done in particular offices, and the extra copyists are employed for the purpose and paid under the rules applying to copyists and copyist-examiners. If we make this staff permanent, we should have to pay them whether they have work or not. In that way there will be considerable waste of money. In the second place, in these times of financial stringency it will not be possible to adopt any such measure as it will involve a considerable increase in expenditure. We have to keep down our expenditure as low as possible and we cannot undertake to introduce measures which will increase the expenditure on any particular service."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"These copyists have got very hard work to do and it will not cost Government very much to put them on a permanent basis. In answer to a question of mine some time ago, a statement of income and expenditure of the copyists for the last ten years was placed before this House by the hon. the Revenue Member. That showed that the income was far in excess of the expenditure in connexion with the pay of the copyists. So, if something more is given or if the pay is made permanent, there would not be any loss to Government. So, I heartily support this motion."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am sorry that the hon. the Revenue Member is not agreeable to this motion, but if he would examine this question he will find that it will not cost the Government anything more financially. The copyists are at present paid on the piece work they do, but if they are made permanent, the Government will find it advantageous to them and at the same time it will not cost them more than what they pay now for piece work. I can even go to the extent of saying that, if the Government agree to this resolution and make these people permanent, it will not cause any loss to them, but it will prove to be a source of profit to them."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, from the point of view of economy also, it is better that these copyists are given fixed salaries. From information furnished by the persons concerned, I came to the conclusion that ordinarily the copyists are paid more than what an ordinary clerk gets. Sometimes, when the work is in full swing, they get more than Rs. 50 a month. But their complaint is that on days on which they could not work it is not possible for them to get these wages. In that way they are handicapped. Moreover, from the figures supplied to me, it is very clear that, while a clerk in the same department earns Rs. 35 a month, a copyist gets sometimes Rs. 50 to Rs. 60. The tendency on the part of persons who are not earning more money is to bring in more men in competition and thus try to bring down their emoluments. So, in Revenue courts and Civil courts, the number of these copyists has increased, and their average emoluments also reduced on account of other men being brought in to do the same copying work. Moreover he is the servant of the public and of the Government. He serves in the 1-30 p.m department for the whole of his life, say, for about 30 or 35 years. Naturally he expects a pension. No pension or provident fund is allowed to him. He practically goes without a pension or provident fund after serving the Government and the public for 30 or 35 years. So, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, and trust that the Government will see their way to place the copyists and copyist-examiners on a par with other clerks."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The discussion on this motion may continue later.

"Before we adjourn I wish to inform the House that amendments in connexion with the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Bill will be received until 1-45 p.m., to facilitate the circulation of amendments to all other Members of the House before we meet again after lunch."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

III.—THE TIRUMALAI-TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS BILL—*cont.*

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Bill No. 15, as amended by the Select Committee, is now for the consideration of the House. I shall now put each clause to the vote of the House."

Clauses 1 to 5 were put and carried.

Clause 6 (1).

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. President, I move that—

'in line 2, for the words "of whom four" the word "who" be substituted and all the words after the word "determine" in line 8 be omitted.'

"With your permission, Sir, I shall move the other amendment proposing the persent Mahant as an additional Member, afterwards.